

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/624,031

Examiner

Dang T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

FRANKOWSKY, GERD

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09 February 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 1/25/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Search history.

  
**VAN THU NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

***Response to Amendment***

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment received on 2/09/05. Claims 22, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 29 have been amended. Claims 1 – 29 are pending on this application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 are independent claims.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1 - 29 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

**With respect to claim 1**, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art fails to teach or suggest "determining if a plurality of cells in an input register has a greater fail count than a fail count of a plurality of cells currently stored in said register; and replacing said address and a corresponding fail count in said register with said address and corresponding fail count in said input register if the fail count of said plurality of cells in said input register is greater than said fail count of said plurality of cells currently stored in said register".

**With respect to claims 8 and 15**, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art fails to teach or suggest "replacing a row address and a corresponding failure count in said register if the corresponding fail count of said new row address is greater than a failure count of said row address stored in said register".

**With respect to claim 22**, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art fails to teach or suggest "each comparator is coupled to the input register to receive the input fail count and coupled to one of said slots of the register to receive a fail count of the one

of said slots of said register, the each said comparator comparing the input fail count of the input register and the fail count of the one of said slots of said register, the input fail count being transferred from the input register when the comparator determines that the input fail count exceeds the fail count".

**With respect to claim 29**, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art fails to teach or suggest "each comparator is coupled to the input register to receive from the input register an input fail count and coupled to one of said slots of said register to receive a fail count of one of said slots of said register, each said comparator comparing the input fail count of the input register and the fail count of the one of said slots of said register and generating a comparator signal in response to the comparison".

4. The prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Kimura et al. and Seitoh taken individually or in combination, do not teach the claimed invention of the compator comparing the input fail count of the input register and the fail count of the one of said slots of said register, in combination with other limitations.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Contact Information***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed


to Dang Nguyen, who can be reached by telephone at (571) 272-1955. Normal contact times are M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

Upon an unsuccessful attempt to contact the examiner, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms, may be reached at (571) 272-1869.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900. The faxed phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the Status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or [EBC@uspto.gov](mailto:EBC@uspto.gov).

Dang Nguyen 3/2/2005

  
**VAN THU NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**